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1. The health service of the Albanian Army suffers from a lack of medical officers in general, and from a serious shortage of medicines.
2. There is only one military hospital, located in Tirana (see also para. 11b below), which receives all the military personnel in need of immediate treatment, and especially those in need of surgery. Military doctors, about 20 in number, are stationed only in Tirana. Sick soldiers arrive in Tirana from all parts of Albania by motor ambulances in urgent cases, or sometimes by military means. Those stationed far from Tirana are treated in the medical centers of their units; these units ordinarily have an infirmary which decides upon the course of treatment. When hospitalization is necessary the soldiers are taken to civilian hospitals, each of which has a "Military Section."
3. The Albanian Government tries to cope with the situation by making some military personnel take health courses, with the sole result that only mediocre nurses emerge from this training.
4. In August 1949, 13 or 14 officers, who were neither doctors nor medical students, were taken from various units and sent to the USSR to take a health course. Informants expected that these trainees would probably function as "doctors" upon their return to Albania.
5. Medical supplies in the armed forces are very limited. It was estimated by informants that, in the event of an emergency, these supplies would last for only two weeks.
6. The health situation is even more serious among the civilians. There are only 120 doctors in the whole of Albania, and they live mostly in the more important centers. Pharmacies are poorly stocked with medicines, and it is almost always necessary to have a prescription to obtain them. The only items that can be had without a prescription are laxatives and two tablets of aspirin at a time.
7. Another group of informants reported that there were approximately 180 Albanian doctors (about 50 of whom were reported early in 1950 as being on duty with the armed forces). These doctors have all taken their advanced

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training abroad, the older men (approximating 15% of the total) having studied in Greece and Turkey, and the remainder in France, Italy, Greece, and Austria (these countries are listed according to the number of Albanian doctors who studied there, ranging from the greatest number to the least).

8. Following the liberation of Albania (end 1944), the Albanian Government reached an agreement whereby an average of 40 students were sent each year on scholarships to universities in Yugoslavia (until 1946 - since 1947), the USSR, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. In addition, in September 1945 a school for doctors' assistants was established in Tirana; this school could handle about 60 students, and was on the same scholastic level as a high school, the pupils of which (after a three-year course) could register at the university.

9. The medical profession enjoys only moderate competence; it is only in urban hospital centers such as Tirana, Korce, Shkoder, Vlone, Durres, Gjinokaster and Berat that it is possible to study and keep up with scientific progress; much more benefit, however, could be derived from professional consultations among doctors than from the study of foreign literature. These writings, limited in amount, come from the USSR. The Ministry of Health publishes one modest review, to which all the doctors can contribute, and a third of which is devoted to reviews of Russian works.
10. The mediocrity of the medical profession is particularly felt in specialized fields. Those doctors who practice in rural or mountain areas (and these are in the majority) have very little opportunity, if any, to keep up with scientific progress; the lack of books, libraries, and so on, prevents them from increasing their knowledge.
11. Health personnel in Albania are distributed as follows:

a. Civilian:

Ministry of Health:	There are five or six doctors who act as technical consultants; they are, however, on active duty with various hospitals or sanatoria.
Tirana General Civilian Hospital:	There are about a dozen Albanian doctors (general practitioners and specialists) and about nine Soviet doctors.
State Hospitals:	Durres (5 doctors), Shkoder (6), Vlone (6), Gjinokaster (5), Korce (6), Elbasan (5), Zukes (2), Berat (4).
Rural Hospitals:	These are actually infirmaries having 10-20 beds; there are about 20 of these infirmaries, about 75 of which have two doctors each, and the remainder a single doctor each.
Sanatoria:	Two (tuberculosis), in Tirana and Korce.
Municipal Dispensaries:	Tirana (5 doctors), Korce, Vlone, Shkoder, Gjinokaster, Berat and Durres (served by doctors of the local hospitals).
Dispensaries:	Approximately 60, located in the chief towns, with one doctor each.
Tirana Maternity Hospital:	Three doctors.

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b. Military:

General Military Hospital (Tirana): Twelve doctors.

Gjinokaster Military Hospital: Three doctors.

Approximately another 30 military doctors are on service with military units (regiments and divisions), but these are not enough to meet the needs of all units.

Hospital Capacity:

12.	Tirana Civilian Hospital	600 beds
	Durres Civilian Hospital	150 beds
	Vlone Civilian Hospital	250 beds
	Gjinokaster Civilian Hospital	180 beds
	Shkoder Civilian Hospital	200 beds
	Elbasan Civilian Hospital	150 beds
	Korce Civilian Hospital	250 beds
	Kukes Civilian Hospital	50 beds
	New Gjinokaster Civilian Hospital (nearly completed)	360 beds
	Tirana Sanatorium	150 beds
	Korce Sanatorium	150 beds
	Rural hospitals (combined)	300 beds
	Tirana Military Hospital	500 beds
	Gjinokaster Military Hospital	150 beds.

13. There is little to report in the field of projected medical-scientific research; disease prevention activities are almost entirely concentrated on the fight against malaria, tuberculosis, syphilis, and the vaccination against such infectious diseases as typhus, diphtheria, small-pox and cholera.
14. From a therapeutic point of view, there is a serious lack of medicine. In 1949 a limited laboratory for the production of medicines of primary necessity was set up in Tirana; production, however, was far below the needs.
15. According to informants, Albanian doctors could not be expected to contribute much toward medicine now or in the future; this factor is not so much attributable to lack of personal ability as to the great lack of means of study and experimentation.

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Comment: The above information, although somewhat outdated, is nevertheless transmitted for whatever value it might have as background fill-in for the health picture in Albania.

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